

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert on page 1, line 4, between the "Title of the Invention" section and the "Field of the Invention" section, the following paragraph:

-- This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. non-provisional patent application No. 09/893,628, filed June 29, 2001, which is now abandoned. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6, and ending on page 1, line 12, with the following paragraph:

-- The present invention relates to a part maintenance system and a part maintenance method of a semiconductor processing system. In this specification, [[a]] the term 'part' "part" is used for specifying a thing that constitutes a part portion of a semiconductor processing system and is driven such as, for example, a gate valve or the like, which may be operated by a predetermined part driving operating device, for instance a gate valve or the like. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 11, and ending on page 2, line 20, with the following paragraph:

-- In case of the semiconductor processing system as described above, however, it generally includes a lot of portions moving or configured to be moved. Therefore, unless [[they]] the portions are sufficiently stabilized, [[its]] the speed of operation of the semiconductor processing system is made may be rendered slower and mechanical reliability of the semiconductor processing system [[would]] might be

lowered, and it becomes hard for such that the semiconductor processing system may
be unable to display perform to its full ability and performance adequately potential.

Furthermore, in ~~case the system is once broken down~~ instances of part failure, it cannot
help being stopped for a long time for restoration thereof, which would ~~worsen~~ reduce
the throughput of the semiconductor device production. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 11, and ending on page 3,
line 23, with the following paragraph:

-- However, ~~in case of the judgment of the part condition~~ judging the
condition of a part by relying on the ~~[[check]]~~ monitoring of the accumulated operation
time and the number of ~~operation times it has~~ operations a part has performed does not
always ~~coincided with presence of the~~ coincide with an actual abnormal condition in the
semiconductor processing system. For instance, ~~it actually happens that~~ some parts
break down before they reach their prescribed operation time limit and/or before the
~~number of operation times~~ they perform their prescribed number of operations while
some ~~others normally~~ other parts may work well for a period ~~[[even]]~~ exceeding their
prescribed operation time and/or ~~[[the]]~~ their prescribed number of ~~operation times~~
operations. Accordingly, it has been desired to establish ~~not the judgment~~ a standard,
which does not relying rely only on the accumulated operation time and/or the number
of ~~operation times, operations.~~ It has been desired to establish a standard that more
closely corresponds to ~~but the judgment standard much more reasonably meeting the~~
actual part operation. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 2, and ending on page 6, line 10, with the following paragraph:

-- According to the first and second aspects of the invention, it is possible to ~~[[grasp]] estimate~~ the actual operation state of each part, and to make a judgment based on this. ~~With this,~~ This may render it ~~[[is]]~~ possible to detect abnormality of each part, and to prevent trouble, accident or the like. Further, since it is possible to ~~previously order parts prior to them reaching a state of abnormal operation,~~ the parts can be exchanged before it becomes necessary to ~~[[stop]] discontinue operation of~~ the semiconductor processing system. ~~With this,~~ This may result in throughput of the entire semiconductor processing system can ~~[[be]] being~~ enhanced. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 22, and ending on page 7, line 10, with the following paragraph:

-- With this aspect, since it is possible to order parts by the first limit value level, it is possible to order parts before the notice processing, such as, for example, an alarm, is carried out by the next limit value level. Therefore, it is possible to prevent trouble and accident. By setting the allowable limit value in a plurality of stages in this manner, it is possible to carry out fine post-processings in accordance with states of parts. Here, the post-processings include various processing in accordance with characteristics of the part, such as warning processing, stopping processing of device, acquisition command processing of parts to be exchanged, lifetime estimating processing of the part and the like. By such a processing, a user ~~[[knows]]~~ may be able to determine whether parts have an abnormal ~~[[state]]~~ condition, and ~~[[can]] may~~ discontinue operation of ~~[[stop]]~~ the device, for example, to avoid danger, ~~and thus or to~~

obtain parts to be exchanged beforehand, such that it is possible to maintain the throughput of the device, for example, without stopping discontinuing operation of the device for a long an extended period of time. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 11, and ending on page 24, line 1, with the following paragraph:

-- Data is input in the following manner. If a cursor is placed on a line of the data display lines 296 where the user desires to input, this line is highlighted so that data can be input the data input line 294. In Fig. 10, a line of the chamber cleaning is highlighted as the maintenance management item, and data of this line is displayed in the data input line 294. By this data input line, execution and selection are brought into effective or ineffective, and limit value levels 1, 2 are input. The limit value levels 1, 2 can be set in each part (maintenance management item). At that time, the limit value levels 1, 2 can be set only within a range of minimum value and maximum value of the limit value levels 1, 2 shown in Fig. 7. If a "~~save~~" "store" button is pushed below on the operation screen 290, the input data is stored in the maintenance item database 282. In the operation screen 290, an "~~exit~~" "end" button for completing the setting, a "~~cancel~~" "discontinue" button for canceling the setting and the like are provided in addition to the above-described buttons. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 5, and ending on page 29, line 10, with the following paragraph:

-- If it is judged that the semiconductor processing system 300 should not be stopped in step S180, the procedure is returned to step S110, and if it is judged that the

semiconductor processing system 300 should be stopped, the semiconductor processing system 300 is stopped in step **[[S19]] S190**, and the series part maintenance processing is completed. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 44, line 14, and ending on page 44, line 21, with the following paragraph:

-- For example, the factory-side system 100 may have a factory-side transmit/receive server 120 connected to an internal network 110 in addition to the factory-side server 200 as shown in Fig. 14, the factory-side sending/receiving means 220 may be provided with the preset means 230, the data collecting means 240 (measuring means 242) and the maintenance judging means 250, and the factory-side transmit/receive server 120 may be provided with the factory-side sending/receiving means 220. --

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 44, line 22, and ending on page 45, line 4, with the following paragraph:

-- Further, the vendor-side system 400 may have a vendor-side transmit/receive server 420 connected to an internal network 410 in addition to the vendor-side server 500, the vendor-side server 500 may be provided with the order processing means 560, and the vendor-side transmit/receive server 420 may be provided with the vendor-side sending/receiving means 520. By providing the factory-side transmit/receive server 120 and the vendor-side server 420 independently from the factory-side server 200 and the vendor-side server 500 in this manner, load on each server can be reduced. --